



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference CAS 4975	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/FR2003/001824	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 17 juin 2003 (17.06.2003)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 17 juin 2002 (17.06.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G10K 11/172		
Applicant HUREL-HISPANO		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.
- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 09 janvier 2004 (09.01.2004)	Date of completion of this report 07 September 2004 (07.09.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☐ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:
pages _____ 1-11 _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☒ the claims:
pages _____ 1-10 _____, as originally filed
pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☒ the drawings:
pages _____ 1/3-3/3 _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-10	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-10	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-10	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US-B-6 203 656 (SYED ASIF A) 20 March 2001
(2001-03-20);

D2: US-B-6 268 038 (PORTE ALAIN ET AL) 31 July 2001
(2001-07-31).

The subject matter of the invention is a method for producing an acoustic panel. Claims 2-10 are dependent on independent claim 1.

Document D1, which is considered to be the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1, describes (the references between parentheses apply to said document):

a method for producing a dual resonator acoustic panel (10) comprising, from one side to the other and in order, at least the following layers: a multiperforated acoustic skin (22) (column 2, line 29), a primary honeycomb (16), a septum (20) that is also multiperforated (column 2, line 57), a secondary honeycomb (18) and a solid skin (24), said septum (20) being sandwiched between said two honeycombs (16, 18), wherein said panel (10) is assembled

by stacking and bonding the aforementioned components (column 3, lines 9-11), and transverse pressure is exerted on said components during bonding so that they are clamped against one another (column 3, lines 16-19).

It follows that the subject matter of claim 1 differs from this known method in that:

- (a) a mould in the shape of the panel to be produced is used and the septum is formed during panel assembly by juxtaposing edge-to-edge a plurality of parts on one of the honeycombs and covering the parts thus juxtaposed edge-to-edge with the other honeycomb. Said parts are cut from a flexible strip and formed so as to allow, with appropriate bending, substantially contiguous developable curved surfaces to approximate the final shape, the maximum error being denoted as E. Transverse pressure thereafter causes deformation of said parts so that they assume the final shape, with the value of E being low enough to prevent wrinkling and tearing of said parts during the deformation process.

It follows that the subject matter of claim 1 is novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

The problem solved by the invention is that of producing an effective acoustic panel of any shape whatsoever.

The problem is solved by features (a) above. The septum parts can thus be selected in such a way as to produce an acoustic panel of any shape whatsoever.

Document D2 describes the production of a septum using fabric strips (D2, column 5, lines 19-21 and column 6,

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lines 1-2). The production of certain shapes of acoustic panel elements is also described in said document (D2, column 5, lines 38-44). This aim is not achieved using a plurality of septum parts but by exerting pressure on the fabric (D2, column 5, lines 40-41). Document D2 does not, therefore, describe features (a) above. It follows that document D2 would not prompt a person skilled in the art to use an acoustic panel as per claim 1.

As a result, the solution to this problem, as proposed in claim 1 of the present application, is considered to involve an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

Claims 2-10 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore also fulfil, as such, the PCT requirements of novelty and inventive step.